

FLOYD FIZZLES

Local towns weather the storm

By JULIE PECHILIS
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY

Tropical Storm Floyd had enough muscle to muster 3½-foot waves in Duxbury Harbor and winds that caused power failures throughout town.

Lights were generally back on within an hour of evening power failures on Soule Street, Standish Shore, Tremont Street and Washington Street. That was due to the fact that crews from Commonwealth Electric and the public works department were out in full force.

The fire department made several runs to homes where the storm caused electrical sockets to short out and smoke.

Both the southeasterly direction of the wind and the fact that the tide was going out as the storm was reaching its peak seemed to help minimize damage to northeast-facing Duxbury Beach and to the few boats still left in the harbor, Assistant Harbormaster Dennis Pearse said.

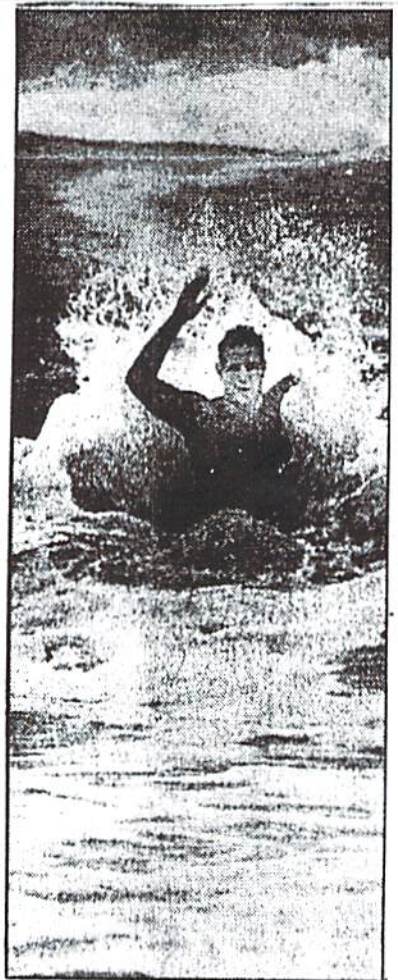
All but about 15 of the 800 boats moored in Duxbury Harbor had been removed from the water before the storm hit.

Pearse was at Town Pier all night, keeping an eye on the boats and making sure nobody tried to go out in one.

Assistant Harbormaster Ryan Chandler spent the evening in a truck at Powder Point Bridge, watching for people who might try to take a swim.

A group of swimmers was ordered out of the turbulent water off Duxbury Beach about 5 p.m.

"People generally underestimate their own danger," Pearse said. "It's difficult to mount a rescue in conditions like this. People don't realize there's no aircraft, it's a very long process to get boats to respond, and it's not an ideal rescue to go in with another swimmer."



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Dan Kenney of Quincy frolics in the storm-whipped water at Powder Point Beach in Duxbury. He is a teacher in Duxbury.